

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for clamping together in a stack at least one tray adapted to hold a plurality of integrated circuits in pockets disposed therein and a cover, the apparatus comprising:

a base forming a bottom of a channel, the channel allowing for the insertion and removal of the stack;

first and second restraining segments attached to the base that together with the base form a channel structure wherein the channel structure restricts substantial movement of the stack both transverse to a length of the channel and perpendicular to a plane of the base; and

at least two pressure members attached to the channel structure, ~~for providing~~ wherein each pressure member applies pressure on a portion of the perimeter of the stack to clamp the stack together between each of the pressure members and ~~a portion part~~ a portion part of the channel structure, ~~thereby preventing~~ to prevent movement of the tray independent of the cover and ~~ensuring that~~ to retain the integrated circuits ~~maintain~~ disposed within the pockets of the tray.

2. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ apparatus of as recited in claim 1 wherein ~~only~~ the at least two pressure members apply pressure to the stack, and include:

a first resilient member extending from the base on one end of the channel; and

a second resilient member extending from the base on a second end of the channel that is opposite the one end of the channel.

3. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first and second restraining segments ~~each include: a wall~~ comprise parallel

walls extending upward from the base, ~~each wall disposed on respective opposing sides of the channel;~~ and

a protrusion attached to ~~the~~ each wall above the base and extending inwards towards the channel so as to extend over a portion of the perimeter of the stack when the stack is inserted in the channel.

4. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the ~~portion of the channel structure is the protrusions; and~~ stack is clamped together between the protrusions and the two pressure members,

wherein the at least two pressure members ~~include~~ comprise:

a first resilient member extending from the base on one end of the channel; and

a second resilient member extending from the base on a second end of the channel that is opposite the one end of the channel.

5. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the ~~portion of the channel structure is the protrusions; and~~ stack is clamped together between the protrusions and the two pressure members;

wherein the two pressure members ~~include:~~

~~a first pressure member extending from the base and positioned adjacent the one side of the channel; and~~

~~a second pressure member extending from the base and positioned adjacent the opposing side of the channel~~ are located on a longitudinal axis orthogonal to a wall of the channel.

6. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the ~~portion of the channel structure is the protrusions; and~~ stack is clamped together between the protrusions and the two pressure members,

wherein the two pressure members ~~include:~~

~~a first pressure member extending from the base and positioned adjacent the one side of the channel; and~~

~~a second pressure member extending from the base and positioned adjacent the opposing side of the channel~~ are located on a longitudinal axis orthogonal to a wall of the channel.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 1, wherein ~~only~~ the at least two pressure members apply pressure to the stack, and ~~include:~~

~~a first pressure member extending from the base and positioned adjacent the one side of the channel; and~~

~~a second pressure member extending from the base and positioned adjacent the opposing side of the channel~~ are located on a longitudinal axis orthogonal to a wall of the channel.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the apparatus is injection molded in one piece using an injection molding material.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the at least two pressure members each are disposed in a first plane different than a second plane formed by a surface of the channel structure ~~to which each of the at least two pressure members are attached.~~

10. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the first and second restraining segments each include:

~~a wall~~ comprise parallel walls extending upward from the base, ~~each wall disposed on respective opposing sides of the channel; and~~

a protrusion attached to ~~the~~ each wall above the base and extending inwards towards the channel so as to extend over a portion of the perimeter of the stack when the stack is inserted in the channel.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the ~~portion of the channel structure is the protrusions; and~~ stack is clamped together between the protrusions and the two pressure members,

wherein the at least two pressure members ~~includes~~ include:
a first resilient member extending from the base on one end of the channel; and
a second resilient member extending from the base on a second end of the channel that is opposite the one end of the channel.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the ~~portion of the channel structure is the protrusions; and~~ stack is clamped together between the protrusions and the two pressure members,

wherein the at least two pressure members ~~include~~:
a first pressure member extending from the base and positioned adjacent the one side of the channel; and
a second pressure member extending from the base and positioned adjacent the opposing side of the channel are located on a longitudinal axis orthogonal to a wall of the channel.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the ~~portion of the channel structure is the base; and~~ stack is clamped together between the base and the two pressure members,

wherein the two pressure members ~~include~~:
a first pressure member extending from the base and positioned adjacent the one side of the channel; and
a second pressure member extending from the base and positioned adjacent the opposing side of the channel are located on a longitudinal axis orthogonal to a wall of the channel.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 8 wherein ~~only~~ the at least two pressure members apply pressure to the ~~stack~~, stack.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 1 wherein ~~only~~ the at least two pressure members apply pressure to the stack.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for clamping together in a stack at least one tray and a cover, the apparatus comprising:

horizontal restraining means for restraining the stack of at least one tray and cover laterally in one direction;

vertical restraining means for restraining the stack in a vertical direction; and

pressure means for application of a force to urge the stack into contact with a portion of the vertical restraining means, wherein the pressure means is configured for applying the force ~~only~~ to a perimeter of the stack.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 16 wherein:

the horizontal restraining means includes first and second side walls spaced apart to form a channel; and

the vertical restraining means includes a base and first and second protrusions each protrusion extending inwards from the first and second walls.

18. (Original) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the pressure means is attached to the base.

19. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the pressure means includes a first resilient member disposed at a first end of the channel and a second resilient member disposed at a second end of the channel.

20. (Original) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the pressure means includes a first resilient member disposed on the base opposite the first protrusion and a second resilient member disposed on the base opposite the second protrusion

21. (Original) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the pressure means is attached to the first and second protrusions.

22. (Original) ~~An apparatus as recited in~~ The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the pressure means includes a first resilient member attached to the first protrusion and a second resilient member attached to the second protrusion.

23. (Currently amended) A method of holding a plurality of integrated circuits in a stack comprising at least one cover and one tray having a plurality of pockets ~~within pockets of a tray, and wherein the tray has a cover disposed thereover so that the tray and the cover form a stack~~, the method comprising the steps of:

~~inserting the plurality of~~ placing the integrated circuits within the pockets of the tray;

~~covering~~ placing a cover over the tray ~~with the cover~~ to form the stack; and

inserting the stack into a unitary assembly; and

clamping the stack with the unitary assembly by applying a force ~~only at~~ pressure to a portion of a perimeter of the stack ~~using a one-piece re-usable assembly, the step of clamping applying the force at opposite ends of the stack to maintain stability of the stack and ensuring~~ to ensure that the integrated circuits ~~maintain~~ remain disposed within the pockets of the tray.

24. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said pressure is additionally applied to a non-perimeter area.

25. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 16 wherein a force is additionally applied to a non-perimeter area.

26. (Original) A method as recited in claim 23 wherein pressure is additionally applied to a non-perimeter area.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising flexible retainers attached to the base to assist in securing a stack within the apparatus.